

A
SUPPLEMENT
TO THE
SECOND EDITION
OF
HARD MEASURE, &c.

BY
Sir RICHARD HILL, Bart.

TO BE GIVEN GRATIS
To any of the Electors for Shrewsbury.

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A SUPPLEMENT

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HARD MEASURE, &c.

AFTER the whole of the last impression of my Letter was printed, I happened to cast my eye again over Mr. W. Hill's Advertisements, and caught an expression, my astonishment at which could only be equalled by my surprize at having before overlooked it. I mean *that* where he holds up my brother to the Shrewsbury Electors as A STRANGER. Surely, said I, this must be a mistake, and the Young Gentleman does not mean Mr. John Hill, but his worthy colleague Sir William Pulteney; I looked at it again, and tho' accuracy of expression by no means distinguishes the *unfledged pen*, I found that my brother was really and truly the obnoxious STRANGER.

Now if Mr. W. Hill can help me to a milder expression, and equally true, I will not call this treatment of my brother *slippant arrogance**; but instead of dwelling on the appellation of *stranger*,

* When I consider Mr. W. Hill's age, and that it is but a very few Years ago that he was the beloved play-fellow of some of my younger nephews, at Rugby School, at Hawkstone, and at Prees, I am willing to make any excuse in my power for his behaviour; and to attribute it to the momentary intemperate heat of misguided youth; but what can I say in behalf of his more considerate friends who suffered such language to pass without correction; only to be equalled by the malicious insinuation of "*the bold idea of monopolizing the representation of both town and county within a single branch of one family.*" But having adverted to this in my letter, I shall only say here, that it would be an easy matter to retort this language by asking, if it is not sufficient for one of an house to be placed above the family that raised him, and to be elevated to a seat in the House of Peers, unless his brother also must be introduced into the House of Commons, by turning out his own relation, and his father's friend.

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let us see how far it is applicable to one of the Hawkstone family, rather than to our Young Candidate. First, then, let us consider by whose wealth and influence the Attingham family were placed where they now are.—Secondly, how many years, I will say how many centuries have Mr. John Hill's ancestors been distinguished in the County of Salop, particularly in and near Shrewsbury, before the family of Mr. W. Hill and the name of Harwood were brought out of obscurity.

I believe there is now in the house at Attingham, (at least there was before the humble mansion of Tern changed its name) the rental of Sir Rowland Hill, Knight, Lord Mayor of London in the reign of King Edward the sixth; let Mr. W. Hill look into this, and he will find that the landed property of that great and good man in the neighbourhood of Shrewsbury, particularly about HAGMOND, (or as it is there written *Haughmond*;) UFFINGTON, &c. &c. was very considerable indeed; and although by various intermarriages the property is now mixed and has changed its owners, yet the Town receives the benefit of it to this day.

Let him further consider who it was that built the two late stone bridges of Tern and Atcham, and made a causeway to them entirely at his own expence; let him well consider this every time he crosses these bridges to canvass against *the stranger*, and let him remember, that all this was done by the munificent ancestor of that very *stranger*, the same Sir Rowland Hill, Knight. Mr. W. Hill, cannot say he never heard of these acts of generosity for the benefit of the Town of Shrewsbury, because they were lately the subject of conversation when he viewed the spot where the Obelisk
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is now erecting at Hawkstone: but if he says *he* has forgotten them, I doubt not but they are had in grateful remembrance by many Salopians at this day, as well as various other deeds of renown which were done by the same liberal hand.

But if he has a mind to come much nearer home; I humbly hope that without the smallest presumption, or at all trespassing on the rules of delicacy, I may be permitted to ask to whom are we principally indebted nearly for the very existence of that most excellent charity the Salop Infirmary? Was it not to the late Sir Rowland Hill, father of the present STRANGER? Was he not the nursing father of this most useful institution in its infancy? Did he not himself supply it with one contribution after another, till it was grown to it's present stature, now the pattern and admiration of almost every other public Infirmary?

Let it not be accounted ostentation that the filial affection of a son should thus speak in behalf of the best of parents; but if Mr. John Hill be a *stranger*, certainly (and *a fortiori*) Sir Rowland Hill must have been a *stranger* too.

Had it not been for the confident boasting of the Young Candidate, and the desire he uniformly shews of depreciating Mr. J. Hill and his connections, these things would never have been mentioned by me.

But to proceed. The craft and design of setting forth Mr. J. Hill as a *stranger* is evident enough. Mr. W. Hill wishes to have the honest tradesmen of Shrewsbury think, that they will go against their own interests, and be the worse off by keeping in their old member than by turning him out. I am

I am almost ready to ask, what benefit has the great house at Attingham been to the town for these ten or twelve years past, and from whence did the furniture come that fitted it up, before the late contest began? But I will rather inquire what advantage is likely to come from it hereafter. The young Peer and his Brother being both of them unmarried, it is the less probable that they will reside on the spot to which the business of the Election has now called them; nor can much be wanted in the way of trade to keep up the household; whereas the *strangers* at Hawkstone and Prees are numerous enough, and I trust I may say no family discharges their debts more punctually, by paying either on the immediate purchase of every article, or quarterly, half yearly, or annually, according to the wish of the tradesman; and when we reflect that it is not the practice of the houses of Hawkstone or Prees, to confine their custom to Whitchurch and Wem, as was invidiously hinted, but to deal largely with the Shrewsbury Shopkeepers, and that this will be more and more the case as they feel their obligations to them, surely these considerations will operate on the minds of all thinking men, to convince them on which side even their own interests must incline them to vote*.

* Altho' I am persuaded that self-interest will eventually prove to be on the side of those who vote for Mr. J. Hill, and more and more as the unanimity of the town now appears so much in his favor, yet the free, noble, generous and disinterested spirit which shewed itself on his canvass, among many who never had the smallest obligation to him, and who had even been threatened, (or, as it has lately been called *Probertized*,) was really astonishing.

It were much to be wished that a law might pass to make every lease null and void, wherein there is any such disgraceful clause, and so subversive of every constitutional principle, as compels the tenant to vote according to the command and will of the landlord.

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The eyes of many begin to be opened to see the truth of these observations, and they have in consequence changed their sentiments and intentions: they are ready to confess that they were taken by surprize, and that on false representations they have been led to make rash promises, for which they are now truly concerned, and from no right and solid principles they can look upon as binding. They declare they cannot in conscience abide by a cause, which has ingratitude for it's foundation, ambition for it's object, and threats for it's support. Even many that are poor, affirm that they will remain so, rather than sacrifice their own rights and those of the town, for the loss of their own peace of mind; and from the present prospect, I cannot entertain a doubt, that notwithstanding the powerful combination formed against my Brother, and the late boasting of his opponents, that he will be returned by a very considerable majority, and that Shrewsbury will soon distinguish itself in the cause of freedom and independence, in a manner which will bring lasting glory to the town, and signal honor to it's inhabitants. Let me add, that had several circumstances been known when Mr. W. Hill first planned his design of turning out his friend and relation, I am persuaded that some respectable characters who have appeared on his side, would have been decidedly against him, and what they may yet do, I pretend not to say.

But let me now offer a word to my young Cousin himself.—Take now the brighter side, and feed your imagination to the utmost.

Methinks, I see you elected, returned and chaired, amidst the ringing of bells and the shouts of an hired multitude; but I hear through all this
noise

noise and tumult, the sighs and groans of several who voted for you by absolute compulsion, and tyrannical menaces of being intirely ruined and turned out of house and home ; I see all around me dejected countenances and shaking heads, and I hear the true born sons of freedom saying one to another, " Alas ! what doth it avail that the wise " Pulteney, the great assertor of public liberty, " hath recovered for us our rights and privileges, " since all the blessings attending the decision of the " Mandamus cause are already lost and gone. " It is true, the newly returned Candidate, came " bowing to us with his hat in his hand, and " talked glibly of freedom and independence, but " we are convinced that he held the same language " to those who were menaced into compliance. It " is however too late for lamentation or retraction, " and poor fallen Shrewsbury must abide the consequences of her own delusion."

These sights methinks I see, this language methinks I hear, but there is yet a sight and language which I can neither see nor hear, I mean the picture of your own heart, the language it utters, and the sensations it experiences (if not past feeling) under the honors acquired by your ungrateful conduct: No, I must here draw the veil, and a black one it is, over the scene: and if I were to paint the flag which should be carried before you when exalted in your throne of laurel, I would write upon it in great capitals SLAVERY, INGRATITUDE, ARISTOCRACY, TRIUMPHANT OVER THE LIBERTIES OF THE BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY.

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As to the wretched attempts of your hired anonymous scribblers, *who write* (as was keenly observed) *only to shew that they cannot write*, and are ashamed of nothing but their names, tho' neither you nor they meant any such thing, yet my brother is certainly much indebted to them; for, notwithstanding their productions are destitute of every particle of wit, and too foolish and stupid to excite a smile, the scurrility, falsehood, and contradictions with which they are stuffed, have convinced many what sort of a cause that must be which calls in such aids to support it. And as for the poor *five guinea* Poet, he has made his *Attingham Lad* appear as ridiculous as himself, insomuch that one would think he was in hopes of getting five guineas more to make him stop his pen, and that his honourable employer should do by him as the good husband did, who first gave the Doctor a fee to cure his wife of dumbness, and then, offered him another to silence her again. But it is a disgrace to take the smallest notice of any of these poor miserable beings, who, though they cannot be said to prostitute talents which they never possessed, are ready to vent their folly and abuse, whenever or wherever they can get a dram or a pint of ale for so doing.

AND now Burgeses and Freeman Burgeses of Shrewsbury, let me call upon you with the loud voice of affection and truth, and suffer me to tell you, that your struggle for liberty is even at the last gasp; a grand alliance is confederate against you, and a most formidable combined army has scaled your walls, and is even now within your gates; several of your soldiers have deserted to the enemies of your freedom, and others are threatened to be starved out by famine. Many however
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remain firm and undaunted, and refuse to capitulate so long as their honest old General who has stood so many campaigns in their service, is determined not to forsake them, nor to quit his post.

Be courageous, therefore, brave Salopians, and the day is yours. Be courageous I say, and be assured that your own interests as well as your rights and privileges are most dear to every one of the family of that Member, whom you so honorably called from private life to represent you in Parliament; and that upon all occasions, and with the most grateful heart, they will ever acknowledge your great kindness and the obligations they lie under to the *really* free and independent Electors of the Town of Shrewsbury.

Suffer me yet to give you one caution:—Be particularly on your guard, when your member goes to attend his duty for you in London; then, as it happened before, I expect every advantage will be taken of his absence; and every method which craft and subtilty, promises and threats can employ, be made use of to warp and seduce you, by some who will pursue you as closely as sharks follow a ship. Remember your cause is that of honor, justice, liberty, and independence, and if once lost can never be regained. Watch therefore, and shew yourselves *freemen* indeed, and doubt not but Shrewsbury instead of being ranked among the number of *corrupt* and *rotten boroughs*, (too many of which it is to be feared may send up *corrupt* and *rotten members*) will shine in the annals of history with as much lustre for her victory over an aristocratic combination to enslave her, as she does for the famous battle in the time of Henry
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the Fourth, when Sir John Falstaff declared he fought a full hour by Shrewsbury clock.

I have yet to add, that a change of circumstances has so far produced a change of opinion and of conduct in me, as to make me see the absolute necessity of personally standing forth in an injured brother's defence; but as I mentioned in my letter, I had through principles of delicacy remained almost inactive, and had fully determined not to attend my brother's canvass, till I was urged to it by the solicitations of some valuable and judicious friends, as well as convinced by *other concurring reasons* that it was matter of duty in me to do so; and that I could not act otherwise without the appearance of neglecting both my brother and the town; neither of which I would on any account be thought guilty of.

THE END.

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